

# ELWHA RIVER

## WASHINGTON

**Project Name:** Elwha River Restoration Project

**Project Type:**

- Restoration (Fish Passage)

**Project Description:** The Elwha River Restoration Project is the largest fish passage project in U.S. history. This project will reopen more than 70 miles of pristine spawning and rearing habitat for five species of Pacific salmon.



*National Park Service*

Salmon populations are predicted to swell from 3,000 to nearly 400,000 as all 5 species of Pacific salmon return to one of the Pacific Northwest's most productive salmon streams. The return of salmon to this ecosystem will bring marine-derived nutrients to the watershed, restoring a vital food source for human and animal communities alike.

Furthermore, this project will bring cultural, spiritual, and economic healing to the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, as salmon return after a century-long absence and flooded sacred sites are restored to the Tribe.

**Lead Federal Agencies:**

- National Park Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



*National Park Service*

**Non-Federal Partners:**

- Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Western Washington University
- University of Washington
- City of Port Angeles

**Outcomes for 2012:**

- Complete fish passage and landscape restoration at Elwha Dam
- Return salmon to River above former Elwha Dam